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Agenda item 3 (a)
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Jamaica:* draft resolution

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and related resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its role in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations development system to ensure that the policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Reaffirming also that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Reaffirming and underscoring the collective commitment and political will of Member States to strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system with respect to assisting developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Reaffirming the principle, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992, that the country-level presence of the United Nations system should be tailored to meet the specific development needs of recipient countries, as required by their country programmes,

Emphasizing that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process,

Reaffirming the importance of integrating the development cooperation activities of the United Nations system with national plans and priorities, enhancing national ownership of those activities and facilitating national participation and leadership in their design and implementation within the context of national development strategies,

Reaffirming also that the effectiveness of operational activities should be assessed on the basis of their impact on the poverty eradication efforts, economic growth and sustainable development of recipient countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,[2] on funding options and modalities for financing operational activities for development of the United Nations system[3] and on the comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2003;[4]

2. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to focus their efforts at the field level in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the goals, targets and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and by major United Nations conferences and summits;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the development of national capacities as one of the key elements of the country-level activities of the United Nations system and that the United Nations system's use, to the fullest extent possible, of national execution and available national expertise and technologies should be the norm in the implementation of operational activities;

4. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and Member States to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, including through ensuring the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies by developed countries to developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[2] E/2005/58.
[3] A/60/83-E/2005/72.
[4] A/60/74-E/2005/57.

separate report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006 on the measures taken in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* that funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should focus on long-term development challenges based on national development priorities and plans;

6. *Reiterates* that increasing the financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

7. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system with respect to assisting countries in achieving their development goals requires continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continued, more predictable and assured basis;

8. *Calls upon* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system to support country-level development assistance to recipient countries and, wherever possible, to make this contribution on a multi-year basis;

9. *Stresses* the relevance of undertaking a thorough review of funding options and modalities for financing the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, given the centrality of these issues to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and to enhancing the United Nations system's capacity to lend its full support to this effort;

10. *Also stresses* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, including from both the United Nations system and donors, and through triangular cooperation;

11. *Decides* to undertake, at the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment of its substantive session of 2006, a comprehensive review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation in general, in accordance with paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004;

12. *Welcomes* the actions indicated in the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 aimed at increasing the system-wide capacity in support of recipient countries' efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

13. *Notes* the response of the United Nations system in undertaking the initiatives required to implement General Assembly resolution 59/250, as specified in the actions, targets, benchmarks and time frames identified at the agency and inter-agency levels contained in the report on the management process for the implementation of that resolution;

14. *Reaffirms* the urgency of enabling and facilitating the access of recipient countries to the full range of services and accumulated experience available throughout the United Nations development system and calls upon agencies, funds

and programmes of the United Nations system to report on practical steps taken to give effect to this recommendation;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group, to continue efforts to ensure greater involvement of the United Nation development system in country-level operations and coordination mechanisms, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of this recommendation in his report to the Council at its 2006 operational activities segment;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make use of the annual statistical compendium on operational activities for development submitted to the operational activities segment of the Council in its new format, as adopted in accordance with paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 59/250, to enhance the comparative analysis of the funding issues related to development cooperation activities of the United Nations system and the funding issues related to development cooperation activities of other entities and to introduce the necessary changes in coverage and methodology, in collaboration with the statistical services of other multilateral institutions;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2006, in compliance with paragraph 102 of that resolution, to report on the consistency of the activities, responsibilities and operational strategies of the funds and programmes with their mandates and overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council and to provide relevant information on the achievements in the implementation of the management process and the programme of work indicated above, within the context of informing the Council of the findings of the assessment of the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, taking into account the requests contained in section VII of Assembly resolution 59/250.